## A Synopsis of a Sermon.

BY WM. W. SUMMERS.

Preached at Northampton, Ind., Sunday evening May 30th 1886. Text: God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3 : 16.

Brethren, sisters, and Christian friends: To night we come to you with the message of heavenly affection, wherein is manifest the love of the Creator for the created.

Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends, and we are taught that "God is love."

Therefore through love and sympathy he redeemed the world through the atoning merits of his Son Jesus Christ. "As in Adam all die even so in Christ shall all be made alive, for by man came death, so by man shall come the resurrection from the dead.

All of these scriptures go to verify the love that God has for us; and when we remember that He is the Eternal, uncreated source of felicity from which flows all these streams of joy which gladden the hearts of angels and arch angels, cherubims and seraphims, and whatever portion of happiness, sensitive or intellectual, is enjoyed by man on earth and by all the subordinate tribes of aminated nature help us to exclaim, "not our will but thine, O Lord, be done." From the same source is derived the blessings from that fountain for the purpose of communicating happiness and displaying his love to the moral intelligence of our world. He has given us a revelation of his character and will. He has exhibited his law as a law of love. He has promised the agency of the Holy Spirit to produce in us those dispositions which his law requires and he has given the affecting display of his love in the mission of his Son into the world. In this says the apostle John, was manifest the love of God toward us, because God sent his only begotten Son into the world that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we love God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be a propitiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, how ought we to love one another.

Now we are commanded in the sacred Scriptures to be imitators of God in his benevolent operations and especially in those cases in which love is required to surmount every obstacle and to exert all its powers in opposition to hatred enmity and ingratitude. Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for those who despitefuly use you. It enables the Greenlander, the Icelander, the inhabitants of Hindoostan and the British Isles, in whose hearts it resides, to recognize each other as the children of God, and as Brethren in Christ Jesus. It sends forth the imaginations over every quarter of the globe, carrying benevolent wishes, fervent prayers, and intercessions for me of all kindreds and ranks, and employs every action endeavoring to promote the present enjoyment and the eternal felicity of the family of mankind.

Around him as the sun of the moral system, the center of light and love and joy, they all revolve in their appointed order, cheered by the emanation of his love, enlightened by his beams and reflecting a radiance upon all the beings with which they are surrounded though one orb differs from another in motion in magnitude, and in glory; yet no one interferes with another to impede its progress or to intercept the emanations of light an joy from uncreated source and center of all enjoyment. Were the principles of attraction which binds together the atoms of our globe and connects the planitary orbs with the sun to be completely dissolved, the earth would be shattered to its center, the waters of the ocean would fly upward and be dispersed through the highest regions of the atmosphere, rock and mountains would be detached from their bases and raised aloft, above the clouds, forests would be torn up from their roots and tossed about in confusion through the sky, the moon would forsake her ancient course, the planets would run lawlessly through the immensity of space, and mighty worlds would be seen dashing against each other until they were shattered to pieces and their fragments tossed about in disorder.

Effects equally disastrous to the intelligent system would be produced were the influence of love in all its varied emanations to be completely suspended or annihilated, war would be proclaimed in heaven and myriads of angels hurled from their seats of bliss. The rapturous songs and adoration of seraphs would be changed into the howlings and exclamations of demons, the population of the universe would be transformed into one vast assemblage of fiends, its region of beauty and fertility would become one wide scene of desolation and horror, and the voice of lamentations and misery would be heard resounding throughout all worlds. On earth kingdoms would be shaken and convulsed, governments overturned, societies dissolved, families dispersed, the bonds of friendship burst asunder, husbands torn from their wives, and parents from children, the intercourse of nations suspended, the pursuits of science and religion abandoned, every rank and relation over-turned, and virtue banished from the abodes of men, deserting all social beings, and forsaken by all—man would become a solitary monster, wandering without plan or object, an enemy to himself and to his species.

Such would be the condition of things if the law of love or attraction was abandoned. It so happens that when the law of benevolence is trodden under foot and humanity looses affection one for another, that nation rises against nation, kingdom against kingdom, fire brands, arrows and death are scattered in every direction. A confused noise of chariots and engines of destruction are wafted on every breeze; garments are rolled in blood and whole plains drenched with human gore and covered with the carcasses of the slain; and groans of the dying would be borne on the wings of the wind to add sorrow to the scene—if love be banished from the earth.

But when we turn our thoughts to the text and appreciate the love that God has for us, can we not manifest the same principle to our fellow beings? "Love one another with a pure heart fervently."

The apostle says, though we have faith to remove mountains, and though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor and understand all mysteries, and have not love, it proffiteth me nothing. But when the love of God is in our hearts, we wish everybody well.

Whosoever believeth on him shall not perish but have everlasting life. God help us all to believe the truth as it is in Jesus Christ that when our warfare is over we may rest in the arms of the crucified One.

With the full assurance of the crown of eternal life the poet has so beautifully sung:

"Had I the tongue of Greeks and Jews
And nobler speech than Angels use,
If love be absent I am found
Like tinkling brass, an empty sound.
If love to God and love to men
Be absent, all my hopes are vain.
Nor tongues, nor gifts, nor fiery zeal,
The work of love can e'er fulfill.

## Envy.

Envy is a sin, and perhaps one of the most common. It is classed in the Bible with the works of the flesh, and the great sins which exclude one from the kingdom of God. Gal. 5 : 21.

Envy is sorrow or displeasure at other's good or success. It is the reverse of charity. Envy, hatred, spite and selfishness are four wicked brothers. They love nobody but themselves and their wicked companions, and nobody loves them but the wicked. Selfishness, spite, and a lack of love to our neighbor as to ourselves are the chief causes of envy. If we would love others as ourselves, we would not envy them, for we do not envy ourselves.

When a person has spite or uncharitable feelings toward some one, or when he has an enemy, he often betrays envy by rejoicing at his misfortune, or grieving at his success. How natural to wish him some evil. This is not the spirit of Christ. Oh no! It is "sensual, devilish." Gal. 5 : 15. A heart filled with charity and the love of God wishes good unto others, and loves to see them happy and prosperous, and feels for them in trouble and misfortune. The envious betray a small mind, a selfish heart or an evil disposition.

Those in high station or office, or those on whom special favor or love is bestowed, are frequently the objects of envy. It is the cause of much evil and strife in families, communities, churches, and nations. Cain envied his brother Abel because God had respect to his offerings, and he slew him. Joseph was envied by his brethren, and they conspired against him to slay him; they treated him maliciously and sold him. The Jews envied Christ, the Son of God, and they murdered him. If envy is one of the "sins that so easily beset us," may God strengthen our weak points, and fill our hearts with charity which is kind and envieth not; which seeketh not her own and thinketh no evil. 1 Cor. 13. Let us think well of others. If we have a "grudge" against any one, throw it away and forgive him as Christ also forgave. "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be ye kind to one another, tenderhearted and forgiving one another, even as Christ for God's sake has forgiven you." Eph. 4 : 31, 32.—SEL.

## Virginia Coming to the Front.

BY JOHN W. LEEDY.

No longer can the Christian hearts, and the bright minds of the Virginia brethren, tabernacle in the flesh and time begotten forms of the past. The time has come, when the story between the commandments of men, and the divinely-established economizing work of the Lord Jesus Christ must be told. The story of the babe of Bethlehem, is like the axioms of mathematics, carries conviction with it as soon as it is announced. And this is being successfully done by the bretbren here, in the past year. Brethren churches have been organized that now out number churches that are our most antagonistic enemies, (I need not say who,) they are to well known, and have been established from 40 to 60 years. But here as well as other places, there came a sad epoch in our history. The cloud that directed Israel had been forgotten, and its pillowy blaze unseen, and the foundation of the church had become insecure—man had confermized with man. But through the organization of Brethren churches, we can see the golden fringes of the mantle of God's glory, shine brighter and brighter. No longer can our enemies stop or stay our onward progress. Though opposition and persecution awaits us, for the devil has his thumb on the latch of every door the gospel wants to open.

Our State convention has proved to be a success, especially Bro. E. B. Shaver's part, for he is an evangelist in every sense of the term. It has been my good fortune to know Bro. Shaver for many years, he is of a lively nature and has a kind word for all. He does good deeds for the love he has in doing them, and all his steps are prompted by honest Bible convictions.

I remain a servant of the Brethren Church.
Tom's Brook, Va.

Strong Son of God, inspire us with thy immortal love. Nothing but thy love can make us strong; nothing but thy love can help us to possess with patience our undying souls. Our life is too heavy for us without thy life; our yoke is too weighty for us until it be added to thine. We have been crouching sullenly beneath our burdens, and consoling ourselves with the thought of the silent tomb; we have been Romans in adversity; we have been cowards in the storm. Rise on us, thou Light of the valley, thou Star of Gathsemane; rise on us, that we may know what it is to have songs in the night, music in the silence, glory in the gloom. Breathe on us thy peace that passeth all understanding, that our hearts may be lighted with thy fire, warmed with thy glow, cheered with thy presence, vivified with thy power. Help us to bear all things without ceasing, to hope all things, to be restful without apathy, to be calm without death. We shall possess our souls in patience when thou shalt enter in. We dare not crucify the Lord of glory. --Rev. George Matheson.

Man can sow the seed in the field, so God does not do that; man can not give the increase, so God gives that when the seed is sown. In the great sphere of religion God does what we can not do; but he refuses to do that which we can do. Are we doing our part?—David Gregg.